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Federation awards highlight top teaching and research

By Clifton B. Parker

From writing instruction to brain development and English as a second language, the scholars chosen for the 2005 Academic Federation Awards for Excellence reflect the innovation and dedication of faculty on campus.

John Stenzel and Ellen Lange, the winners of the Academic Federation awards for Excellence in Teaching, and Mari Golub, the recipient of the Academic Federation Award for Excellence in Research, were recognized at a May 17 reception in the Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center. Each will receive a \$500 award for their contributions.

An adjunct professor of internal medicine, Golub has produced an extensive list of published research papers and spoken at various conferences in the issue of environmental toxins and brain development. Since the mid-1990s, Golub's research has focused on the effects of trace elements on brain development in adolescents, and has studied how the potential estrogenic effects of pesticides may affect puberty.

In addition to her campus duties, she serves as a staff toxicologist for the state Department of Health Services and Cal EPA.

"Golub is a major contributor to a very important area of research — the effect of environmental contaminants on human brain development," wrote psychology lecturer Barbara Sommer in her support for Golub's award.

Sommer added, "In addition, she has served on the panels of two government agencies concerned with risks to human health and reproduction. And she continues her service in the important area of trace metal risk."